'Stern'

NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1967

Tells of JFK's Last Night

By ARTHUR GREENSPAN and NORMAN POIRIER

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The material, which Mrs. Kennedy succeeded in having deleted from the "Look" magazine version, drew angry denunciations from persons close to Mrs. Kennedy.

One spokesman said the version was not even an accurate transcription of the William Manchester book, "The Death of a President," which Stern is serializing under a contract with Look.

In copies that hit the stands in Europe today, "Stern describes how an exhausted President Kennedy parted from his wife in his suit at the Texas Hotel in Fort Worth the night before he was killed:

He was in blue and white stripped pajamas when she entered his room to retire. But they couldn't remain together because the President's aides had removed the double mattress and replaced i twith a single sleeping board for Kennedy, who suffered a back injury.

The other half of the bed was bare springs. The two embraced but were so exhausted from their day's activities that it was less an embrace than a mutual support . . . "like a couple of bookends," Mrs. Kennedy thought to herself.

Had Breakfast Date

The President then lay down on the bed, saying he had a devil of a stomach ache, and told his wife not to stay with him. He said he had to make a breakfast speech and she could remain in bed.

Mrs. Kennedy turned out the light and said "good night" and left the room, sad that she was to be separated from him.

The source closeto Mrs. Ken-

nedy said: "Now that the 'Stern' text is out you begin to see some of the reasons why Mrs. Kennedy is concerned about what is being printed in the book."

The source, who has read the Manchester manuscript, angrily pointed out discrepancies between the book and the 'Stern' version.

"It wasn't Kennedy's 'aides' who removed the mattress. It was the hotel's luggage crew, the source said.

About the 'Embrace'

"And that part about the 'embrace.' Manchester doesn't say anything about an embrace. Stern just stuck that in," the source added.

"And they have the President telling Mrs. Kennedy 'don't stay with me.' What he said in the Manchester book is 'you don't have to get up with me' which is quite a difference."

Another error in this second installment was pointed out by a writer who read the Stern version.

At one point, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald was described by Manchester as "husbanding an $80 bank account." The Stern version has her receiving "an $80 monthly payment from her missing husband.

Meanwhile, the controversy between Mrs. Kennedy and Manchester over his soon-to-be published book my be settled today.

Negotiators who worked late last night told The Post that "discussions have been going very well. There is a great spirit of cooperation and accommodation.

"Everybody's pressing toward a settlement, to avoid a court fight. Everybody is hoping that it will be concluded today, but it could be another day or two."

At Rifkind Office

Two separate sets of talks were going on simultaneously at the 575 Fifth Av. offices of former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, who is Mrs. Kennedy's attorney in the action against Manchester and his publisher, Harper & Row.

One group was discussing changes in the hard-cover version of the book which Harper & Row will publish this spring.

These were the talks nearing an end as Manchester was due in State Supreme Court here today and a trial in connection with a permanent injunction under which Mrs. Kennedy would seek to halt publication of the book.

This action is based on the claim that Manchester, by not giving Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Robert Kennedy the final say on what appears in the book, is in violationt of a contract between Manchester and the Kennedys.

The German Magazine

The other discussions included attorneys for the West German magazine Stern, which is now serializing the book under a contract with Look magazine, which owns serializa-

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tion rights to the Manchester text.

Look acceded to the request from the Kennedys and made the requested revisions. But Stern has refused to do so, and insists on publishing what it says is Manchester's original text.

William vanden Heuvel, who is representing the Kennedy family in this phase of the talks, returned here Saturday night from Germany after talks with Stern publisher Henry Nannen failed.

Vanden Heuvel and Look editor William Atwood tried unsuccessfully last week to get Nannen to make the same deletions which Look made.

These discussions failed, said vander Heuvel, despite the fact that the only deletions sought were those that "no decent person" would object to in the face of Mrs. Kennedy's sorrow.

"There are not now, and there never were in any of our discussions," he insisted, "any suggestions for cuts or changes that have any politicial implications regarding Sen. Kennedy."

Yesterday's talks with Look and Stern attorneys "weren't difficult," vanden Heuvel said. "It's in the hand of our attorneys and Look's attorneys, it's their action, after all."

It was pointed out that Look signed serialization contracts with publications in 25 nations.

"They are all the same contract," a source said. "Only one contract is being dishonored, by Stern."

From Hamburg, West Germany, Reuters reported last night that a Stern official was unconcerned about the impending lawsuit which Look is preparing to file.

"I think Stern would look forward to legal action," a Stern official said last night, "because we have nothing to worry about."

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Post Photo by Jacobellis

Jacqueline Kennedy, escorted by composer Gian-Carlo Menotti, leaves Ethel Barrymore Theater on W. 47th St. after attending performance of "Les Ballets Africains."

Last Night

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